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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

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MICHAEL MEERMANS  
MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

DAVID BUCKLEY  
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

October 17, 2006

The Honorable Jane Harman  
Ranking Member  
House Permanent Select Committee  
on Intelligence  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

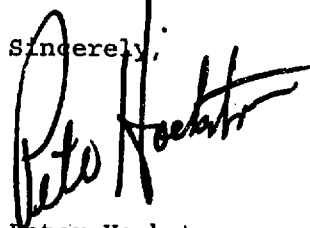
Dear Jane:

I am forced into the unfortunate circumstance of having to follow up on the leak of classified information from the April 2006 National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on global terrorism.

As you well know, one of your staff, [REDACTED], requested the classified NIE document directly from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence at the behest of Representative [REDACTED]. That document was provided directly to your staff and Mr. [REDACTED] on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. The contents of this classified document were leaked to the press and the story published on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I have thought carefully about this, and have come to the conclusion that I cannot assume that this was mere coincidence. I have received a request from the Committee's Vice Chairman, Ray LaHood, to thoroughly investigate this matter and I have an obligation to him, the Congress, and the American people to protect classified information provided to the committee.

It has become clear to me, by your continuing and unauthorized releases of information received and maintained by the Committee, that the Democrats are not willing to protect committee information, and that you are politicizing intelligence for purposes not reflecting national security values. I cannot assume that your agenda does not extend to a cavalier treatment of classified information. There is a reasonable basis to be concerned that Mr. [REDACTED] could have been involved in, or confirmed the leak of, the classified NIE information. Accordingly, I will take immediate action to restrict his access to the secure Committee offices and from classified information until I can conduct an investigation into the possibility of activity that violates House and Committee Rules and relevant criminal laws.

Sincerely,



Peter Hoekstra  
Chairman

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October 20, 2006

The Honorable Jane Harman  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

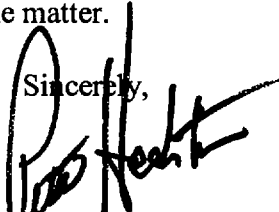
Dear Jane:

I received your letter of October 18 regarding the suspension of access of a professional staff member to classified information. Rather than engage in point-by-point discussion of these matters, I believe the most constructive response is simply to determine the best way forward to quickly resolve this matter.

Before doing so, however, I need to clarify only one fundamental point. Given the current "zero tolerance" atmosphere for any indication of a specific, demonstrable reason that suggests the potential for wrongdoing, I believed that it was necessary to act swiftly on the "red flag" of the potential of involvement in an unauthorized disclosure of classified information under the same standards you have repeatedly urged me to apply at other times. I want to be very clear – as Mr. LaHood has been – that at this point this is a matter of demonstrable facts and circumstances that require further inquiry rather than a determination that wrongdoing has actually occurred. This is an issue of national security and we must apply the same standards to the Committee that we have called on the Executive Branch to follow.

I have not yet made a final decision as to how to proceed, and am soliciting your consultation as to how to do so. I hope that you will work with me in a full and open manner to promptly conduct and complete an inquiry to resolve this as quickly as possible given the sensitivities of the matter.

Sincerely,



Peter Hoekstra  
Chairman